

# Lois McMaster Bujold Quotes

*People, Men, Pain, Giving, Way, Thinking, Heart, Want, Writing, Real, Doe,  
Winning, Feet, Sorry, Children, Feelings, Action, Mean, Life, Ifs*

The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is a duty of the living to do so for them.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Poets speak of hope in ladies smiles, but give me a smirk any day, I say.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Reputation is what other people know about you. Honor is what you know about yourself.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I'm very interested in the impact of biotechnology on the way people live.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Don't wish to be normal. Wish to be yourself. To the hilt. Find out what you're best at, and develop it, and hopscotch your weaknesses. Wish to be great at whatever you are.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Aim high. You may still miss the target, but at least you won't shoot your foot off.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you can't be seven feet tall, be seven feet smart.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Since no one is perfect, it follows that all great deeds have been accomplished out of imperfection. Yet they were accomplished, somehow, all the same.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

When you give each other everything, it becomes an even trade. Each

wins all.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Adversity does teach who your real friends are.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I've got forward momentum. There's no virtue in it. It's just a balancing act. I don't dare stop.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

There are always survivors at a massacre. Among the victors, if nowhere else.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

When you choose an action, you choose the consequences of that action. When you desire a consequence you had damned well better take the action that would create it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I need words that mean more than they mean, words not just with height and width, but depth and weight and, and other dimensions that I cannot even name.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

It's an ancient and honorable term for the final step in any engineering project. Turn it on, see if it smokes.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Anything worth achieving is worth overachieving.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Have you ever heard the phrase, Living well is the best revenge?"  
"Where I come from, someone's head in a bag is generally considered the best revenge

~Lois McMaster Bujold

You try to give away what you want yourself.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I don't duel, boy. I kill as a soldier kills, which is as a butcher kills, as quickly, efficiently, and with as least risk to myself as I can arrange.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Guard your honor. Let your reputation fall where it will. And outlive the bastards.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

The principle difference between heaven and hell is the company you keep there.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Whether you function as welders or inspectors, the laws of physics are implacable lie-detectors. You may fool men. You will never fool the metal.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Change is possible.' 'Change is inevitable.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Power is better than revenge. Power is a live thing, by which you reach out to grasp the future. Revenge is a dead thing, reaching out from the past to grasp you.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Events may be horrible or inescapable. Men have always a choice - if not whether, then how, they may endure.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you make it plain you like people, it's hard for them to resist liking you back.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

When you choose an action, you choose the consequences of that action.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If power was an illusion, wasn't weakness necessarily one also?

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I don't confuse greatness with perfection. To be great anyhow is the higher achievement.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you want to catch something, running after it isn't always the best way.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

It's a bizarre but wonderful feeling, to arrive dead center of a target you didn't even know you were aiming for.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I am who I choose to be. I have always been what I chose, though not always what I pleased.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I am an atheist, myself. A simple faith, but a great comfort to me, in these last days.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

An honor is not diminished for being shared.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

The will to be stupid is a very powerful force, but there are always alternatives.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

A good friend of my son's is a son to me.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Children might or might not be a blessing, but to create them and then fail them was surely damnation.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you can't do what you want, do what you can.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Exile, for no other motive than ease, would be the last defeat, with no seed of future victory in it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Growing up, I have discovered over time, is rather like housework: never finished.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

One step at a time, I can walk around the world. Watch me.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

You can say a lot in a little time, if you stick to words of one syllable.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Most people go through their whole lives without killing anybody. False argument.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Ignorance is not stupidity, but it might as well be. And I do not like feeling stupid.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

When you can't do something truly useful, you tend to vent the pent up energy in something useless but available, like snappy dressing.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Escapist literature gets a bad rap. But I think escape is important for a lot of people in a lot of places.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Suicidal glory is the luxury of the irresponsible.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

From fried witchetty grubs to gold-plated turnips, when you're a writer you never know what's going to appear on your plate next. It keeps a woman alert, it does.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If the truth doesn't save us, what does that say about us?

~Lois McMaster Bujold

War is not its own end, except in some catastrophic slide into absolute damnation. It's peace that's wanted. Some better peace than the one you started with.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

What you are is a question only you can answer.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

My home is not a place, it is people.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Some prices are just too high, no matter how much you may want the prize. The one thing you can't trade for your heart's desire is your heart.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Never argue with a pedant over nomenclature. It wastes your time and annoys the pedant.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Endure pain, find joy, and make your own meaning, because the universe certainly isn't going to supply it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

On the sixth day God saw He couldn't do it all, so He created  
**ENGINEERS**

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Surely only correct understanding could lead to correct action.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

A hundred objective measurements didn't sum the worth of a garden; only the delight of its users did that.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I take it as a man's duty to restrain himself.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

You couldn't be that good and not know it, somewhere in your secret heart, however much you'd been abused into affecting public humility.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Experience suggests it doesn't matter so much how you got here, as what you do after you arrive.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Not that I haven't leaped up into the blinding light of competence now and then. It's sustaining the altitude that defeats me.



~Lois McMaster Bujold

A weapon is a device for making your enemy change his mind.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

How could you be a Great Man if history brought you no Great Events, or brought you to them at the wrong time, too young, too old?

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Honor is what you know about yourself.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Never underestimate the human capacity for wishful thinking and willful blindness,' said Miles. Such as a whole society of people who became so wrapped up in avoiding death, they forgot to be alive?

~Lois McMaster Bujold

One learns better than to hand one's choices to fear. With age, with every wound and scar, one learns.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Honesty is the only way with anyone, when you'll be so close as to be living inside each other's skins.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Some people grow into their dreams, instead of out of them.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I don't want power. I just object to idiots having power over me.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Utterly bleak and black is not the sum of realism. All the other colors are real, too.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

We should have taken our chances back then, when we were young and beautiful and didn't even know it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Do it for yourself. The universe will be around to collect its cut later.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I'd storm heaven for you, if I knew where it was.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Well, what is a blessing but a curse from another point of view?

~Lois McMaster Bujold

For me, writing is more a process of discovering the book than planning it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Miles clutched Quinn's elbow. "Don't Panic." "I'm not panicking," Quinn observed, "I'm watching you panic. It's more entertaining .

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Never do yourself, what you can con professionals into doing for you.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Forward momentum only worked as a strategy if one had correctly identified which way was forward.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

The rule for finding plots for character-centered novels, which is to ask: 'So what's the worst possible thing I can do to \*this\* guy?' And then do it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

A stunning first impression was not the same thing as love at first sight.

But surely it was an invitation to consider the matter.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Bleeding ulcers run in my family, we give them to each other.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Miles added it to his life's lessons list. Call it Rule 27B. Never make key tactical decisions while having electro-convulsive seizures.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

A tactical retreat is not a bad response to a surprise assault, you know. First you survive. Then you choose your own ground. Then you counterattack.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

He's not too short. He's just... concentrated.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

The most important thing about quests, he decided, was not in finding what you went looking for, but in finding what you never could have imagined before you ventured forth.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

You should have fallen in love with a happy man, if you wanted happiness. But no, you had to fall for the breathtaking beauty of pain.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I've described my usual writing process as scrambling from peak to peak on inspiration through foggy valleys of despised logic. Inspiration is better when you can get it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy. Not when the enemy is me.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

As the week wore on, Ivan contemplated the merits of inertia as a problem-solving technique with growing favor

~Lois McMaster Bujold

History does not so much repeat as echo, I suppose.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I'm sorry. I can love you. I can grieve for you, or with you. I can share your pain. But I cannot judge you.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I began my writing career in a very isolated place and time.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you're trying to take a roomful of people by surprise, it's a lot easier to hit your targets if you don't yell going through the door.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

If you ever have to make a choice between learning and inspiration, choose learning. It works most of the time.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

And this was your friend?" Cordelia raised her eyebrows. "Seems to me the only difference between your friends and your enemies is how long the stand around chatting before they shoot you.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

Wikipedia is so dangerous. You go online to look up the definition of eclampsia, and three hours later you find yourself reading this earnest explanation of tentacle porn in [Japanese] anime.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

I am not schizoid. A little manic-depressive, maybe." "Know thyself."  
"We try, sir.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

A true Vor, Miles told himself severely, does not bury his face in his liegewoman's breasts and cry--even if he is at a convenient height for it.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

You have to be careful who you let define your good.

~Lois McMaster Bujold

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